28th March 1953]

District is the nearest place in his jurisdiction from the headquarters, viz., Madras. The distance by rail to Cuddapah District border from Madras is 104 miles."

SRI G. SIVASANKARA REDDI :—"Sir, is it not necessary to locate the headquarters at a suitable and centrally situated place within his jurisdiction in order to save the unnecessary expenditure towards his travelling allowance for journeys between Madras and the nearest place of his jurisdiction, whenever he travels?"

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—"The matter has been previously considered twice and the Board of Revenue were asked to report; on these two occasions they reported that owing to want of accommodation in the districts, Madras was considered to be the most suitable place for the time being."

Working of the Shops and Establishments Act.

* 234 *Q.*—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have got complaints from various Labour Unions that the working of the Shops and Establishments Act is not satisfactory and that the workers are not benefited by the same; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any proposal to amend the Act so as to enable the workers to get better treatment and benefit from their employers?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"(*a*) Yes Sir;

"(*b*) Proposals to amend the Act are under the consideration of Government."

Medical van for the Malabar District Board.

* 235 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have received any request from Malabar District Board for permission to spend Rs. 1,000 a month on a skippo van for medical aid in rural areas and if so, what decision has been taken?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"Yes; the proposal was not approved as the District Board is working at a deficit."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—"Sir, in a speech on the 11th, the Hon. Minister for Public Works observed thus: 'So it was now considered that the best way to administer and carry medical relief to rural areas was to have mobile dispensaries. The question of starting mobile dispensaries in every district was under the consideration of the Government'. Now, what the Malabar District Board has done is naturally in furtherance of the declared policy of this Government. May I request the Government to reconsider the matter and give directions?"